Opening of New Bank Branches in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh

2286. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nationalised banks have not opened enough branches in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that large areas of rural villages are without any modern banking facilities in Chittoor district; and

(c) the ratio of bank branches to population in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. BEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) There are 232 branches of commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks in chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. Besides these, 23 branches of the District Co-operative Centre Bank are also serving the District through 174 Primary Agricultural Cooperatives.

(b) The banking facilities of the District are adequately taken care of by these branches. Further, under the Scheme of Service Area Approach to rural lending, all the villages have been allocated to the existing branches thereby taking care of their banking needs.

(c) The average population per bank branch on the basis of number of branches of commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks is 14,000.

Income Tax Exemptions to School and Medical Institutions

2287. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income tax department is planning to withdraw exemptions to schools and medical institutions;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed for not penalising genuine institutions which are not misusing the benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) In view of the Budget secrecy, it would not be proper to furnish information on this subject at this stage.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the above answer to part (a).

Opening of Sales Emporium at Guwahati

2288. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to open a Sales Emporium of his Ministry at Guwahati in 1993 and advertisements appeared in Assam dailies seeking accommodation for the proposed emporium at Guwahati;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up the emporium at Guwahati so far; and

(c) the steps proposed by his Ministry to expedite the setting up of the proposed emporium and by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This was not set up due to ban imposed on creation of posts.